Rome Feb. 8th 1866

My dear Maria

Your letter gave me great pleasure not only as all your letters do, but as it contained the good news that my two sons had been to see you & that Walter had given you the 5£ all which I have desired to hear, as well as that you had got the £7 from me - for I was sure that I was uneasy about you

I regret to find that you are still suffering & even that you need help & that you have still so much of the winter to go through, this is all very cruel, but we are born to suffer, & I cannot send you a much better account of myself than you send me of yourself - for ever since the sad loss of my gifted daughter I have been afflicted with Rheumatism all over me & at times am come - true that I feel the bleeding of great

calmness at this fearfull news, & even now I am able to bear it, but it has affected my health & I dont get better. — However I will hope that in the course of my usual good health some little recovery may be my good fortune I can walk tolerably well, but when I rest & move I feel so weak & full pains, but twas not to be expected that I could sustain such a blow without suffering, for Mary was my greatest pride, she seemd to me the very perfection of human nature — Then as She had been my companion in Art almost from infancy & as I had made her the depository of all I had ever learned, her loss is irreparable — fortunately I had had two dear visits from her in Rome & this is a great consolation

The many letters of condolence, of praises, the passages in News papers about her, and

the portraits & drawings I have of her, all make me feel more & more my loss of what I can scarce believe, that I have lost her for ever, except that she will always seem to live in the great love she inspired & the fame she got for her beautiful work - As yet I have not got a copy of the Queens letter of condolence to my son in law Newton written by Lady Augusta Stanley, I suppose you have seen it? Now I'll try to turn to something more cheering to you - my daughter Eleanor is going on so well & shows so much talent - She has totally taken up all my housekeeping & the servant Teresa I have had these 5 years has left us, for she could not bear losing the rule of the house & she was such a passionate woman, that she broke all my things & put me to expence, so that now we are in clover, with a nice quiet woman who is really in love Eleanor - Miss Winter

notice of whatever, for not only there was a want of dignity in the Pope sending me such a message by a private person, but also he ought to have known that we officials never write in Newspapers. — You can have no idea how these ruffish knaves tried to provoke me & what an envious party they made. But fortunately I had the high esteem of Cardinal Antonelli & the other ministers so that the persecution fell dead. — They got up a protest to be sent to Lord Russell to demolish me but the U. Secty of state tore it up, as did the Governor of Rome a report of a similar kind, so I had the warmest & highest protection. What fools, not to have perceived how I stood above all such absurd malice. — However all is passed over & I have gained by it in the power & rank which I am so proud of.

I am sorry to write such a dull letter, so like the weather & so like the public affairs & so little entertaining. — In the summer I go again to the King's Villa (Victor Emanuels) although this was one cause, but I believe his Majesty wishes me to accept his gracious leave & so I am obliged, but to most offensive to the Pope. — Good bye, your loving brother

Joe